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8271

November 22, 1962

7:58 a.m.

FROM: Belgrade

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 657, November 22, 1 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by 3/6/82 DATE

(X) REFERENCE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
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ACTION DEPARTMENT 657 INFORMATION WARSAW 25 TS authority to:

( ) DECLASSIFY to ( ) OADR  
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Reference: EMBTEL 656.

On November 20, at the official luncheon tendered to Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki by Yugo Foreign Minister Popovic, both Foreign Ministers in their public toasts mentioned Cuban situation. Popovic's statement was restrained and inoffensive, but Rapacki said the following:

We are just coming to end of moment of maximum danger to peace since second world war. Main factor in Cuban problem has been attack by extremist imperialist circles of United States of America on all the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence, with intention of curtailing, either from positions of force or through use of force, right of Cuban people to self-determination and to subjecting it again to a state of semi-colonial dependence. This policy has led the world to brink of war.

To my regret, I find it unacceptable that such a statement, maliciously distorting motives of our policy and clearly designed to arouse distrust and anger against our government, should be made publicly on Yugo soil on an official occasion by visiting Foreign Minister of a country with which we have ostensibly normal diplomatic relations. I propose, most reluctantly, to apprise my Polish colleague that I shall not be able to attend official reception he is giving Friday evening for Rapacki, and to inform Yugos of reasons for my absence. They will, I am sure, understand it very well.

DMB

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